MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2000

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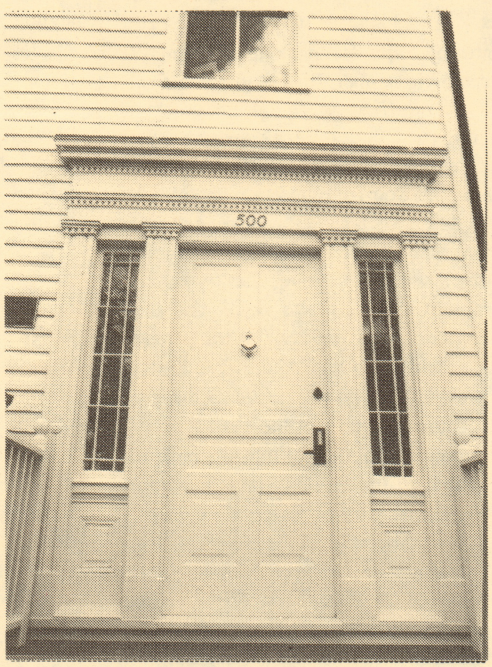
House Update

The house is painted, the windows are sparkling with new UV filters (we bet you can't even tell!) and the alarm system is up and running. Dan Tye Painting Company did a wonderful job. Thanks to the estate of Alice Ziegler that donated $1,000, which we used for the alarms and to President Walters who paid to have cracked glass replaced.

David Ferguson has sealed the cracks in the driveway and also managed to move the huge pile of mulch onto the garden beds (what a job!) Speaking of the garden, Pat Thompson alerted the Board to a beautiful pink rose now flowering. It is "La France" and was donated by Great Lakes Roses. It is the prototype of modern hybrid roses and is a very unusual transitional rose. It looks beautiful climbing along our front fence, as do the morning glories on the south fence. The Board also voted to spend $400 for spring bulbs. Soon we will also have new signs as well.

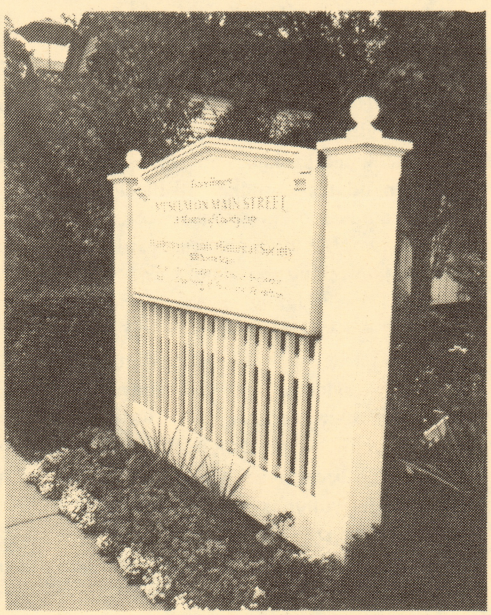


The new paint job and donated doorknocker make the beautiful main entry to MoMS even more inviting.

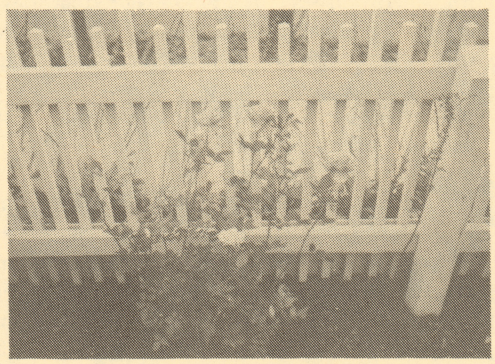
October Program

Sunday, October 15th, at the Museum Building 500 N. Main Street Doug Kelley will speak in two shifts (2 PM and 3:30 PM) on *"Collecting Memorabilia of Women in American Politics."*

The newly painted Museum on Main Street now has an alarm system and clean windows protected by UV filters.



Our signs will soon be repaired and repainted. I'm sorry you can't see the beautiful colors of the flowers.



The "La France" rose, mother of all hybrid teas.

Presidential Politics With A Local Flavor

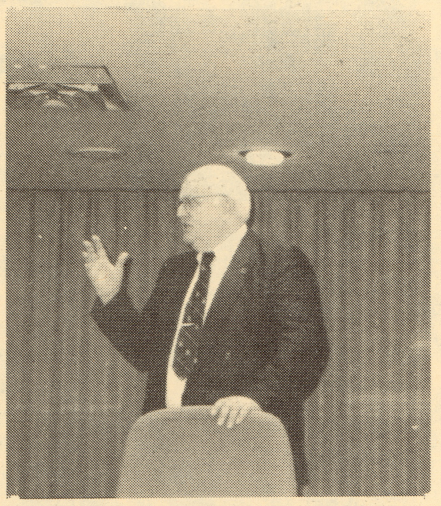
*On Sunday September 17th, **Peter B. Fletcher** spoke to a crowd of about 40 people in the Council Chambers of the Ann Arbor City Hall on "Presidential Politics with a Local Flavor." He graciously agreed to speak on short notice when it was discovered that the announced speaker would be unavailable. Fletcher, a native of Ypsilanti, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and CEO of the Credit Bureau of Ypsilanti. He is a founding Director of the Bank of Ann Arbor, a member of the State Judicial Tenure Commission and previously served as Chairman of the State Highway Commission, a Trustee of Michigan State University, Chairman of the State Officers Compensation Commission, member of the Ypsilanti Charter Commission and Republican National Committeeman. He is currently a Director of the Historical Society of Michigan. Fletcher began his highly alliterative talk with a remark about his own 'post-prandial pontificating.' It went on from there!*

"I should start out by saying that since I am in credit and banking I am under a number of mandates to make full disclosure. You are entitled to know that I received not one, not two, but three post cards from this organization telling me about this meeting and that I was to be the speaker. And then I received not one, not two, but three copies of the newsletter with the same warning on it. So they understand my deep sunset confusion and there you are now aware of it also. Secondly, we must all be in some state of confusion because we would sacrifice the last splendid summer Sunday to be inside here when we could be enjoying these wonderful natural delights. We all know here in Michigan this does indeed have a limit on it. Therefore, you have made a wonderful sacrifice in being here this afternoon and listening to my soporific post-prandial pontificating. However, that was your free choice. And finally, I think it's only fair to explain to you that the real reason I am here is not because of the pleas of your program planner but because as a broken-down old bill collector and political hack, I don't get invited to speak very often. And therefore, I'm utilizing the old bromide that 'old men love to give good advice because they can no longer set a bad example.' So, here I am, fulfilling that boys and girls!

"Presidential Politics with a Local Flavor." The reason I thought you might be interested is that approximately two months from now you are all, I am confident, going to perform your civic responsibilities and vote in the general election. Sam Eldersveld was scheduled to be your speaker and thereby hangs another tale. I had him as a Professor in the Political Science Department at the U-M, just a few short years ago, and then in 1988 I was able to gain a little "sweet revenge." I had been invited, through some peculiar concatenation of conspiratorial circumstances, to speak to an assemblage of political scientists, including Sam Eldersveld, at the U-M about two months before the 1988 Presidential Election. While I had them as captives, I suggested we conduct a 'galloping poll' and find out what this august assemblage thinks is going to happen in the general election. "How many of you think the Gov. Dukakis will be elected on November 7th?" Some of them raised their hands. "How many of you think Ambassador Bush will be elected on November 7th?" Some of them raised their hands. And I said, "Just wonderful. You fell into my trap. Neither one of them will be elected November 7th because the Electoral College does the actual electing and that's no worse than the trick questions you used to ask me all those many years ago." Not many of you have had this opportunity to have this sweet academic revenge!

I cannot be in the Ann Arbor Council Chambers without noticing that, typical of government, there are two clocks and they don't agree. So, I am certainly impressed with the leadership that Ann Arbor leaders have provided. If you wonder about the level of confusion, just look at the clocks!

Presidential Politics. First, a quick reminder that in the United States Constitution, the anniversary of which we celebrate today, September the 17th, we created an unusual office—a very remarkable public office—called the Presidency. What we did was blend a number of governmental and ceremonial factors into one position. And it truly is unusual and unmatched any place else. There are other countries with offices called President but I don't think you would find any that has assigned to it quite what we have assigned to it. I marveled when I traveled in 1976, because I was the Campaign Chairman here in Michigan for the incumbent President who was Gerald Ford, at the way people would react when we were in a motorcade. People would jump up and down and wave flags and scream and you would think he was a rock star. But that's not the phenomenon. It is almost impossible to define what it is that we have assigned to the American President.



Peter B. Fletcher speaks on presidential connections to Washtenaw County from the City Council Chambers.

Many years ago, a very distinguished political scientist reminisced about the death of President Harding. By that time, they had figured out that he was not going down in the history books as a stellar example of a chief executive. This gentleman walked in the room and his mother was crying. He asked her why and she answered "The President is dead. The President is dead." He said "Mother, Warren Harding is not worth weeping over." And her response was, "but he is still the President." That's why we must continue to remind ourselves of what an important responsibility it is to select the right person for this office.

In the past I was somewhat involved in this process. I want to tell you of two incidents. First, it is the spring of 1976. It is a Friday afternoon and I am the State Chairman for President Ford. I get a copy of a memo (before they invented fax machines) that the Secretary of State of the State of Michigan had fed to all the potential candidates who wanted to appear on the Presidential Primary Ballot here in Michigan in the month of May. Unlike other states, Michigan sent notices to those who had publicized that they were interested in being President, and you then had to file an Affidavit of Candidacy in order to appear on the ballot. Most states did the reverse. You were notified that your name would appear on the ballot unless you specifically asked that your name be expunged.

So, the great gurus in Washington sent a copy of this memo to me, just for my information. They said there is nothing we need to do since Gerald Ford is the incumbent and would be on the ballot automatically. Well, a very simple reading of this was not what it said. It said he had to file an Affidavit of Candidacy. So here is this poor country bumpkin in Ypsilanti, Michigan calling the great gurus in Washington asking them to read it over again. "Oh what do you know, you nobody from Ypsilanti. How could you possibly know anything?" "Well, I said, just humor me and double check with the legal eagles." Monday morning I get a telephone call. The tenor of this call is much different from the one on Friday. Great panic has now set in. "You're right. We need to have an Affidavit of Candidacy."

So, they decided to get the President to sign an Affidavit of Candidacy and then called me and told me: "Go to Metro Airport tonight (there are 48 hours left) and meet Northwest Flight 23 and meet Capt. Jones and he will have the envelope with the Affidavit of Candidacy." Fabulous. So, I go out to Metro Airport at the appointed time and I report, and mind you, these are the days long before we were cursing and reviling Northwest Airlines. I got there at 7 o'clock and they reported the flight had come in and told me to wait at the Baggage Area and they would bring it down. Seven o'clock, eight o'clock, nine o'clock, ten o'clock—I kept getting these bulletins—well we can't find it. They even ended up searching the runway. They thought maybe they had dropped it. They called the President of Northwest Airlines in Minneapolis. He couldn't solve the problem. Five hours later they gave up. I chuckled to myself "oh, the candidacy of the President hangs in the balance, but who cares?" I called them back on Tuesday morning; "Guess what? Northwest Airlines lost the Affidavit of Candidacy." Lots of hand wringing ensued. I asked if they were still interested in having the President on the ballot and they said 'of course.' It turns out they had finally done something somewhat appropriate. They'd had him sign **two** copies of the Affidavit.

So, I then get another report to go to Metro Airport and repeat the same charade, with instructions to go into the bowels of the organization and to a particular office to this particular man. You are not surprised that I had great doubts and hesitations about the veracity of this report. But, to humor them, I did exactly the same thing. I wandered through this labyrinth and arrived at this office. A rather peculiar looking gentleman is sitting there with his desk piled high with papers. I explained why I was there and he said, "oh, you know, I think I saw something like that." So he starts looking around and I start pondering whether all great moments in history are such as this. "Oh, here it is." I have to confess (big chuckle) that I breathed a sigh of relief. I thanked him profusely, took the envelope, got in my motor vehicle, motored across the verdant sward of southern Michigan to our state capitol in Lansing, went to his excellency the Governor of the State of Michigan (The Hon. William G. Milliken), handed him the envelope, and he walked across the street and delivered it to the Secretary of State's Office with less than 24 hours to spare.

Gerald Ford went on to win the Michigan Primary where he got 59 delegates and was then nominated in Kansas City with only a 50-vote margin. Therefore, am I entitled to take credit for the fact that Gerald Ford was the Republican nominee in 1976? Now, I have to further confess that I never told that story to Ronald Reagan because, of course, he might have ended up President four years earlier if it hadn't been for this malcontent in Ypsilanti, Michigan! So that's a little local flavor of Presidential Politics.

The second incident I want to tell you about involved Thomas Dewey who last ran for President in 1948. And about 40 years later, when he was a very distinguished senior citizen, he came to Ann Arbor for a speaking engagement. I had the assignment of picking him up at the airport so I got to spend some time with him. Remember that he is the one who was ridiculed as the 'figure on the wedding cake' etc. etc. who lost the Presidency not once, but twice. But he was a graduate of the U-M and was from Owosso and I wondered what he would be like. It was very interesting.

First of all, he was pleasant, nice, decent and not at all affected, and thoroughly enjoyed touring the campus and reminiscing about his college days. I asked him about his thoughts about being a presidential candidate and all the spotlights of his career. He replied that the Presidency of this country is such an unusual responsibility, and such a remarkable office, that the fact that he ran for it was a special privilege in a free society. He had not one qualm, not one scilla of regret. I thought this was an extraordinary testimony to the office by one who lost it. It again reminded me of the awesome responsibility we have in selecting the President.

Sometimes Washtenaw County has voted for the winner, sometimes it has voted for the loser, but at least we have been active participants. There have been a number of appearances in various presidential campaigns by various candidates. But my favorite was the appearance of Adlai Stevenson on the steps of Pease Auditorium on the campus of EMU in Ypsilanti. When he finished his talk, a then very active Democrat, Viola Blackenburg (some of you may remember her) called out to him "great speech Governor." He stopped, turned, looked at her and said "charitable" and moved on. I always liked that response and have a soft spot for Adlai Stevenson even though he's a Democrat. Of course I have an even softer spot in my heart for his father, Adlai Sr., whose great quote is "in America, anyone can become President. That is one of the risks we take."

During the question and answer session, Fletcher spoke of two direct connections between Ypsilanti and Harry Truman. As Chairman of the War Oversight Committee, Truman came to the Willow Run Bomber Plant to confront Henry Ford. He demanded to know why the bombers weren't being built faster (FDR later made a personal appearance at the factory and Ford was forced to ride in the car with him—with pained expression—since he hated him). The second connection was with Frank Handy, the publisher of the *Ypsilanti Press* who got romantically involved the Truman's daughter Margaret.

Fletcher also reminisced about Arthur Vandenberg who gave a speech after the 1948 election and made a great observation to pep up the Republicans who had lost. He noted "it's possible that we have too easily fallen prey to that Biblical apothem, 'blessed are the meek.' We've got to be more aggressive." I kind of liked that. He was, by the way, one of the major contenders for the 1952 nomination. I thought he would have been a good choice, but... we had a heck of a battle between Eisenhower and Taft.

Another audience member reminded him that Lyndon Johnson gave the U-M Commencement Speech in 1964. This reminded him of another story of his attending that Commencement when Johnson announced the Great Society. Cecil Creal was Mayor of Ann Arbor. They were making tart and abusive comments about LBJ (well, we are Republicans and we are supposed to. That's our role in political life!) "We discovered that this normal looking person sitting next to us was a Secret Service Man. So of course, we started doing a little strategic back-pedaling. Let's face it, the Secret Service does get nervous."

Fletcher told another anecdote about the State Highway Map of 1975. RenCen had

just opened and was featured on the cover and a press conference was being held in Detroit. Earlier he had received a scorching letter from Keith Molin at U-M bitterly complaining that under my leadership the Mackinac Bridge was being repainted green and white, the colors of MSU, the archenemy. I promised him that I would try to think up something to show him I was loyal to maize and blue.

"One evening, Mephistopheles appeared to me and told me what to do. Two new towns in the Ohio section of the Michigan map were added: **Goblu** was one and **Beatosu** was the other. The last thing I mentioned at the press conference was that there was something on the new map that was not on the old map. That's all I said. Some smarty went home that night, put the two maps up to a light, found the two towns. I am here to testify, boys and girls, that it has been a 'mark of Cain.' Not a month goes by but there isn't some reference to that silly little map caper that I thought would be over in 20 minutes. The governor got complaining letters and answered that the ink wasted cost $6 and that Chairman Fletcher had foregone $6,000 in income he would have received, so that taxpayer got a good deal! Two months ago, on the Internet, one of those maps was auctioned for $285.00! If you have any connection with the Michigan Dept of Mental Health, give up. The world is crazy!"

One more anecdote about Ohio and its Bottle Bill was discussed. In 1978, Michigan adopted a Bottle Bill that is working magnificently. Fletcher and Milliken worked hard on that bill. Two years later, the same question was on the Ohio ballot. "Of course the bottlers were lying about how it wasn't working in Michigan, so proponents asked me to come down and tour in Ohio. Two weeks later the voters of Ohio defeated the bill. The Editor of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* called and asked if I was disappointed that the voters had rejected my good advice. I replied 'not only am I not disappointed, I'm not surprised. After all, Ohio has a rather dull and pedestrian countryside and no doubt the litter relieves the tedium.' I now travel in the state of Ohio under an assumed name. With that I conclude my presentation."

Mark These Dates For Our Programs

Louisa Pieper has once again put together a wonderful series of lectures for us on the theme of politics in this Presidential Election Year. Remember that you will receive a post card before each meeting giving particulars of the event and where to park. All lectures begin at 2 PM.

Sunday • October 15th

Dr. Douglas Kelley, retired Director of Extension and Continuing Education at UM-Flint and Curator of the Museum of Political Memorabilia (at his home!), will lecture on **"Collecting Memorabilia of Women in American Politics."** This will be held in two shifts at our Museum Building so we can accommodate all who would like to attend. It is suggested that if your last name ends in A-K you attend at 2PM. If it ends in L-Z, you attend at 3:30. This is only a suggestion not a requirement. This lecture is in conjunction with Doug's exhibits at the Museum discussed elsewhere in the newsletter. As an added attraction, **Edith Wacksman** of the Bay City Museum will be on hand as Amelia Bloomer, an early feminist and inventor of "bloomers" as underwear.

Sunday • November 19th

(Please note date change and topic change)

Wystan Stevens, unofficial City Historian of Ann Arbor, will speak on his recent book on the **history of Northfield Township**. To be held at St. John's Ev. Luthern Church.

Sunday • February 18th

Russell Bidlack, Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Library Science, U-M, will lecture on the cache of letters he purchased last year that were written by brothers John and William Geddes to each other in the 1820s-40s. This will be held at the Bentley Library.

Sunday • March 18th

(Please note topic change)

Peggy Haines, Washtenaw County Clerk and Register of Deeds, will lecture on the election process and show off the new County Building Annex at Ann and Main in the process.

Sunday • April 15th

An Open House at the **U-M Observatory** is planned for this date. Director Sandy Whitesell has agreed to be our speaker.

Wednesday • May 16th

The **Annual Meeting** is tentatively planned to be held at the Webster Church in Webster Township, where the fund raising campaign for the Museum on Main Street was started in 1989. Our speaker will be Willah Weddon.

Museum Shop Still Needs Manager

Time on yours hands? Our Museum Shop is stocked with wonderful items for sale including books, note cards, toys, hand made and other gift items, but we need someone to oversee sales and the buying of new items. Anyone interested please call Pauline, 662-9092.

Business Support

This month's issues of *Impressions* is co-sponsored by

CHELSEA MILLING COMPANY, the makers of Jiffy Mix, celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2001.

Around The County

The **Saline Area Historical Society** had to cancel their October speaker. However, on Wednesday, **November 15th** at 7:30 at the Saline Depot, **Gary Skory,** President of Midland County Historical Society, will speak on "*The Saline-Midland Connection: The Natural Phenomenon of Salt.*" As readers may know, the natural salt springs inspired local French trappers to name the local river the Saline River. Later, the founding father, Orange Risdon, gave the name to the town. Coming from Midland, Mr. Skory will discuss what happened in HIS town when the discovery of brine by Herbert Dow started Midland's chemical industry. Admission is always free and light refreshments are served. Call 734-429-9261 or 734-769-2219 for more information.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will be featuring **Ralph Hillman** on **October 22** at 1:30 PM speaking on *"Doing Research in New York State."* Mr. Hillman has done research in New York and New England and does research for societies and individuals. The class following the speaker will be on "Finding Other Sources" and will be taught by Bobbie Snow. The usual November meeting will be held on **December 3rd.** The speaker will be **Randy Riley** of the Library of Michigan who will lecture on *Ships Passenger Lists.* The class following will be Citing and Evaluating Sources and will be taught by Connie Olsen. **All programs are at a new location, The St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium. Entrances are at the 5305 Building or Urgent Care. Parking Lot P is nearby.**

The GSWC newsletter noted that the Dexter Area Museum has a website: **http://www.hcvn.org/info/dextermuseum**. Their holdings include genealogies, census indexes, area church records, obituary files, card files and microfilms of the *Dexter Leader* from 1869-1969. They can be reached at 734-426-2519. They also report that Washtenaw County cemetery readings can be found on the Washtenaw Co., MI USGenWeb site. Visit it at **http://www.tripod.com/~deemamafred/washcem.htm.** If you have questions about the society call President Marcia McCrary at 734-483-2799.

"Snappers" will visit the **Waterloo Area Farm Museum** on Friday, **October 20th**. The Snappers come around 1 PM with their antique (pre-1914) horseless carriages but must leave at 3 PM to continue their journey. The Waterloo Farm Museum is near Stockbridge. They also have a website: **http://www.scs.k12.mi.us/~waterloo.** Call Diane Moulton at 734-426-9135 if you need information or directions.

Another historic district study committee has been formed to evaluate the **Milton Geer** House in **Superior Township** and recommend it for historic designation. It is on Ann Arbor Road and just next to the Esek Pray House, which is also petitioning for historic designation. Study committees can be appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners if a township does not feel it has the resources (or energy!) to oversee a study committee. If you are interested in having your house designated (and thus be able to take advantage of the 25% tax credits now available to homeowners), contact **Marnie Paulus.** Her e-mail is paulus@co.washtenaw.mi.us. Your editor has been appointed to both of these study committees!

The **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy** has been busy. They announced in their newsletter that they have purchased 90 acres of LeFurge Woods in Section 27 of Superior Township. The total acreage at LeFurge Woods is now 261. The tale of the purchase is too long (and tall) to tell here. Needless to say, this 'purchase' requires them to raise $590,000! This was at a negotiated price of $5,600/acre! Anyone wishing to contribute should write to the Conservancy at **6410 St. Mary's, Detroit, MI 48228.** The Conservancy's mission is to conserve natural land and open space including forests, wetlands, agricultural land and places of scenic beauty—to provide habitat for wildlife and enrich people's lives. Since incorporating in 1988 they have protected 1440 acres through 22 projects. It has created three local divisions: **Superior Land Conservancy, Livingston Land Conservancy and Monroe County Land Conservancy.**

Around The State

The **Michigan Historical Museum** is mounting an exhibit of photographs by the **Goodridge Brothers**, America's most significant, enduring and prolific **African-American Photographers**. The exhibit opened September 12th. The Museum is at 717 W. Allegan St. in Lansing. For more information call 517-373-1615.

Observatory Lecture Series Announced

I neglected to announce the first lecture in the second series of lectures sponsored by the Observatory—*mea culpa.* The following lectures have been scheduled: **Michael Lopresto**, Chair of the Physics Dept. of Henry Ford Community college, will speak Tuesday **October 24th** at 7 PM on *"Woman in Astronomy."* On Tuesday **November 14th, Donn Werling,** Director of the Henry Ford Estate of U-M Dearborn, will speak on *"Restoring Fair Lane, Home of Henry Ford, Pioneer Preservationist and Interpreter of our Heritage."* And on Tuesday, **December 5th, Sally Bund,** Assistant Archivist at the Bentley Historical Library here in Ann Arbor, will speak on *"Ann Arbor's Forest Hill Cemetery and the 19th Century Rural Romantic Cemetery Movement."*

Open Houses have also been scheduled for the newly restored 1854 Observatory. They will be open Wednesdays Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 from 4-6 PM and on Thursdays Oct. 26, Nov. 30, and Dec 14 from 12-3PM. A $5.00 donation is suggested for admission. For more information or to inquire about group visits, call 734-763-2230.

The Tour De Sprawl Is Eye Opening

Your editor went on the Tour de Sprawl on Saturday September 23rd—a bus and bike tour sponsored by the local chapter of the **Sierra Club and APRON,** a newly formed group in Webster Township. APRON (The Association for the Preservation of Rural Open Neighborhoods) aims to promote both public and private conservation of Webster Township's important and fragile land and water resources. It believes in responsible and balanced growth and at present is getting petitions signed for natural beauty road designations, educating residents about proposed developments and lobbying with representatives in Lansing. For more information contact Erica Perry at 734-449-2825.

The tour highlighted four sites in **Webster Township.** The first was the Ralaric Farms Development on Webster Church Road, just across from the working Dee Centennial Farm. The second stop highlighted a recently donated conservation easement off Zeeb Road and the third stop was at Independence Lake Park. Our final stop was at the Bloomer Farm on Northfield Church Road, where **Tom Bloomer,** grower of soybeans and popcorn, spoke eloquently of the pressures sprawl creates on a thriving agricultural community. The stop at **Independence Lake** and the **Becker-Zuccaro** Conservation Easement allowed speakers **Laura Rubin** and **Barry Lonik** to discuss the unique water and glacial features of Webster Township.

Drain Commission **Janis Bobrin** gave an eloquent introductory speech before the tour began, explaining that development in Washtenaw County is at a crisis point concerning water quality and the destruction of habitat for many animals and birds. Bobrin noted that Webster Township is God's Country—and one of her favorite places to run. The bus tour bore her out. What a magnificent unspoiled landscape is still there to be enjoyed! She sees some hope in the **Agricultural Lands and Open Space Task Force** that was formed after the defeat of the PDR proposal in 1998. It is supporting **Proposal B** which is on the ballot this November.

Without sounding alarmist, Bobrin noted that development is out of control and loss at many levels was a recurring theme. She cited the visible problems such as traffic backups and school overcrowding. She also listed the invisible problems including the destruction of local creeks and waterways, the flooding that is resulting from over paving and overbuilding, and the resulting loss of water quality. She can't stop growth but would like it more intelligently managed. Right now she sees **10-15 proposals every month** for new shopping malls and developments! She is happy to see that the **Chelsea Area Planning team** is trying to plan for development with several townships working together. This, she believes, will result in better development in the future. Other speakers at this event were **Dean Fisher,** Webster Township Supervisor; **John Hieftje**, Ann Arbor City Council (and Mayoral Candidate); State Rep. **Liz Brater**; and **Doug Kelley** from Rep. **John Hansen's** office.

New Book Published On Huron River

A new book entitled *The Huron River: Voices from the Watershed*, edited by Keith Taylor and John Knott, was read from on Sunday, September 24th at the Shaman Drum bookstore in Ann Arbor. This creative, nonfiction collection about the Huron River includes writings from a variety of local authors. On Wednesday October 25th, well known author **Barbara Kingsolver** will read from her forth coming book *Prodigal Summer* at 5 PM in the Rackham Building, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. Tickets are $5.00 and proceeds will benefit the **Huron River Watershed Council and the Ecology Center.**

Kempf House Lectures Continue

Every Wednesday until November 8th, the Kempf House sponsors lectures arranged by former Historic Preservation Coordinator Louisa Pieper. **Tom Loeffler** of the Toledo Museum of Art will speak on *Popular Prints and Photographs, 1870-90* on **October 4th**. On **October 11th Brian Dunnigan** of the Clements Library will speak on *Images of Detroit, 1701-1838* and on **October 18th Sharon Ferraro**, Kalamazoo Historian, will speak on *Great Lakes Lighthouses*. **Mark Hodesh** will discuss the Fleetwood Diner as he talks about *Downtown's Renaissance* in the 1970s on **October 25th. Susan Wineberg** has agreed to show her slides from the *Natchez (Mississippi) Pilgrimage* on **November 1st.** On **November 8th Louisa Pieper** will talk on the *Street Exhibits Program* (those wonderful images in frames we've seen sprouting up on Main Street) and the 15 new exhibits being planned.

All lectures are held from noon to one at the Kempf House, 312 S. Division St. Admission is $2.00 ($1.00 to members). Bring a bag lunch but remember that food and drink consumption is restricted to the dining room area. Parking is available in the Library Lot. For information call 734 994-4898.

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call 734 662-9092 or e-mail us at WCHS MoMS@aol.com.

Around The Town

The **Historical Society of Michigan**, headquartered in Ann Arbor at the Tuomy House at 2117 Washtenaw Ave, announced in their last newsletter that their **Library** is now open. They have more than 1,000 books dealing mainly with the history of the state of Michigan. These include histories of many towns and counties of the upper and lower peninsulas, Michigan business, trades, industries, politics, religion, travel, tours and expeditions, ships, lighthouses, wars, schools, universities and sports. The Library is open to its members or member institutions. You can contact them at 734-769-1828. Their e-mail is hsm@hsofmich.org. and their website is **www.hsofmich.org**. Hugh Gurney is the Director.

The **Cobblestone Farm** people have been busy! A **major window restoration** is underway after cracks were noticed in many of the exterior sills. Carpenter ants and water (the usual suspects) were to blame. The sills are being repaired with the West System Epoxy and the ants are being taken care of by an exterminator. The West System Epoxy is a process learned from Dick Spiglemeyer, an expert in window restoration from Kalamazoo. It is a very labor-intensive process and they are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about this process, call the museum at 734-994-2928.

Cobblestone also has a number of events in the works. **Historical Re-enactors** will be on hands on **Sunday October 22.** The **Family Dance Series** is held on **Sundays, Nov.19th, December 17th, January 21st, February 18th and March 18th.** Squares, contras and other country dances will be hosted by David Park Williams and John Freeman. Admission is $6.00 per person or $10.00 per family.

A **Winter Evening** is planned for Sunday **February 16th**, from 6-9. The fee is $2 per person, $8 per family, children under 3 free. All ages can escape the wintry weather and experience a typical evening at the farmstead, when courting and quilting were common.

For those of you interested in this sort of thing, it was recently determined by Fitzpatrick Structural Engineering that the house is both **balloon-framed and timber-framed**. It was previously thought the house was just timber framed but balloon framing has been discovered on the second floor. You never know what you will discover when you start repairing your windows!

New Exhibit Of Political Memorabilia

By **October 4th**, in anticipation of the coming Presidential Election, we are happy to announce that **Dr. Douglas Kelley** will be displaying portions of his massive collection of Democratic political memorabilia. His collections will be supplemented by Republican items from the collections of Michael Kelly of Flint and Wendell Peterson of Ida, Michigan.

In the front parlor (Dusseau Room) will be the *"Washtenaw Winners: Presidential Candidates who have carried Washtenaw County Since FDR."* In the Kempf and Towsley Rooms, Doug will be displaying articles related to **Women in Politics since 1848** including original items from the Women's Suffrage Movement, the career of Eleanor Roosevelt, and activities in both major parties. Items from current women's organizations (League of Women Voters, MADD, Million Mom March) will also be included. Doug will also be speaking about his collections on **October 15th**. See Program Section for details.

The exhibit will be open through November during regular Wednesday and Saturday hours (noon-4PM). However, **we need your help**! If you would like to give tours or help in any way, please call President Pauline Walters at 662-9092. We find that we need at least two people whenever we are open.

Knapps Points Move Ahead

Esther Warzynski reports that we have 2, 358 points. Thank you one and all and keep 'em coming!

Recent Donations

We've noticed a dramatic increase in donations since we've opened our Museum building. A group of linens belonging to **Ruth Ross Morrow** were donated by her niece **Elizabeth Soden.** Morrow lived at 345 S. Division, a home built in 1867 by James C. Allen, son of the founder of Ann Arbor. Morrow's grandmother embroidered the linens. Also donated by Mrs. Soden were a huge man's beaver coat, a velvet bonnet, and a pair of mens black bear skin gloves. **Kurt Binder** has given us an Arborphone radio made in Ann Arbor c. 1926. **Art French** donated a clapper toy advertisement for the Wm H. Rohde Company. **Susan Wineberg** continued to give more business advertising items including a Robin Hood Dictionary made expressly for Dietzel Shoes (which was handed out to children in 1927) and an 1873 Booklet for Farmers given out by the C. C. Leiter Co, Gregory Block, Ann Arbor, (formerly at Huron and Main). **Andrew Beierwaltes** is donating some of his bottle collection, including soft drink, dairy, motor oil, and prescription bottles. Many were found around Barton Dam after the 1968 flood left the area high and dry.

ATTENTION ALL TEACHERS

Loan Boxes & What's It? Game Available

Like to play dress up or live like a pioneer? WCHS has two loan boxes—**"Life Before Electricity"** and "**Hats to Spats"** which can be rented for a $15.00 fee and a deposit. The loan boxes are "hands on" artifacts and books which illustrate how life was lived before electricity (you had to grind your own coffee and went to sleep early in the winter when it got dark at 5 o'clock) and what adults and children wore in the 19th century.

We also offer a traveling exhibit of small artifacts, set up as a What's It?" Game, for schools and other groups. **Sally Silvennoinen** demonstrates the What's It? and manages the boxes. Call her at 734 971-5086 to set up a date. So far Sally has spoken to high school students from Stone School and Community High. She and President Walters also attended the Teacher Fair at the Hands-On Museum to demonstrate these items and encourage teachers to use them.

Longtime Board Member Retires

Lucille Fisher, a board member since 1982, was finally allowed to retire this year. We had been twisting her arm to stay on the Board, but this year her health really forced her to slow down. Patricia Austin first appointed Lucille to the Board of Directors after she had helped the society revise its bylaws. She served as **Recording Secretary** for six years and as **Chair of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee**. We are so grateful to have had people like Lucille on our Board and we miss her very much. But she is staying active in retirement and still promotes the Museum on Main Street whenever she can. As another former board member, Arlene Schmid, noted "how is that for dedication?" We all agree and applaud Lucille for all her work for the society and the Museum on Main Street.

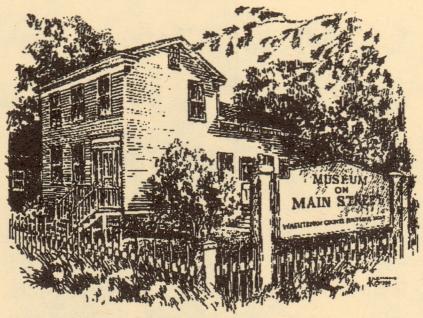
2000-2001 Officers Elected

At the Annual Meeting held May 17, 2000, **Pauline Walters** was re-elected President. Also re-elected were **Virginia Hills**, Vice President; **Judith Chrisman,** Recording Secretary; **Harriet Birch**, Corresponding Secretary; and **Patricia Creal,** Treasurer. Elected to the Board with terms that expire in 2003 were **Ann DeFreytas, Peggy Haines, Karen Simpson** and **Jay Snyder**. The new Directors-at-Large are **Tom Freeman** and **Ralph Beebe** (re-elected). **Susan Wineberg** continues as Editor of *Impressions* and Immediate Past President.

Note: Our Corresponding Secretary, ***Harriet Birch****, has been forced to resign for health reasons. We will miss her smiling face, her cheerful attitude and her dedication to the museum.*

Do We Measure Up?

We are once again asking for your **financial support** for our Museum on Main Street. You have all been so wonderful in your responses to our previous pleas for money that we continue to plead! This year's item (we love brainstorming to think up items and tag lines) is a **plastic ruler and magnifying glass**, more and more a necessity as we age. We count on you once again to show us how well we 'measure up' and encourage you to come and see for yourselves our wonderful building, gardens and collections. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed in the past and a special "thank you" to the Creal family that stuffed envelopes and also stickered the September *Impressions*.



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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"COLLECTING MEMORABILIA OF WOMEN IN AMERICAN POLITICS"

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DOUG KELLEY

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